

Newport Now

Volume I, Issue 15

A place to live, work, shop and play. It's all that and more!

September/October 2003

City

Administration:

- Mayor: Tom Guidugli
- Vice Mayor: Jerry Peluso
- Commissioners: Jan Knepshield
Beth Fennell
Robbie Hall
- City Manager: Phil Ciafardini
- Police Chief: Tom Fromme
- Fire Chief: Larry Atwell
- Chief Financial Officer: Greg Engelman
- Economic Development Director: Pat Wingo
- City Clerk: Paula Williamson
- City Solicitor: Mike Schulkens

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City Lowers Property Tax

For the 18th straight year, the City of Newport has lowered its real estate tax rate. Since 1986, the City's real estate tax rate has decreased by 60-percent, going from \$6.49 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to \$2.57. The City's strategy to lower property taxes, was to stimulate housing rehabilitation and economic development. The reduction of business taxes has helped fuel the City's Economic Development and related commercial activity brings in more revenue to the City which enhances services. Major improvements are also able to be made while keeping resident costs down.

City tax bills are expected to be mailed during the last week of September. These bills will include the property taxes levied by the City and by the Newport Board of Education. The bills are payable on or before October 31

and are considered delinquent if they are postmarked after that date. If the bills are paid late state law mandates a penalty of 10%, which is imposed immediately, and interest of 6% per year. These fees must be assessed even if you don't receive the tax bill.



October 31, 2003

The City makes every attempt to assure that the tax bills are delivered to the property owners in a timely manner. Each year, however, there are a few bills

that are returned as undeliverable or that go to the wrong place due to property transfers during the year or mortgage company changes. In order to avoid the potential of being charged late fees, if you or your mortgage company do not receive a tax bill by October 10 please call the City Finance and Administration Department at (859) 292-3660.

City Auction - Online

Do you need a computer, some office equipment, office furniture, power tools or even a bicycle? The City has all these items and more available to the general public for purchase. After more than two years the City will be conducting it's Surplus Auction only this year you will be using a more accessible and interactive format the Internet.

The E-Bidding Application is currently being implemented as a new feature of the

City's website and is accessible at <http://www.cityofnewportky.org/auction>. The new system is available today and will begin accepting bids on October 1, 2003. Please complete our simple registration process and browse the items up for auction using our user-friendly interface. There are no reserves on any of the items and is open to all. Good luck and happy bidding.

Questions call Paula Williamson, City Clerk at (859) 292-3666.

USS Nightmare



USS Nightmare 2003 will be haunting the Newport waterfront, for a haunting season that promises to scare and thrill all from September 26 - November 1, 2003. Questions call (859) 261-8500 or visit www.ussnightmare.com.

Ticket Prices: \$12.00 Regular Admission ; \$6.00 Matinee Show (October 26th 4-6 p.m. only)

Hydrant Flushing

The Northern Kentucky Water District will be flushing hydrants throughout the City of Newport on October 6, 2003 through October 10, 2003 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Residents may experience temporary low pressure and/or discoloration. All problems or concerns are to be directed to the Northern Kentucky Water District at (859) 578-9898.



Monsters on Monmouth

Dress up in your favorite costume and parade down Monmouth Street in the annual Monsters on Monmouth parade Sunday, October 26, 2003. Parade participants will assemble at A.D. Owens Elementary School at 1:00 p.m. The parade, which starts at 2:00 p.m., will travel down Monmouth Street to 4th Street, turn right on Columbia and head to the



Riverfront. Parade participants can go through the USS Nightmare for free. Snacks and punch will also be available on the plaza between the Aquarium and Newport on the Levee.

For more information call Parks and Recreation at (859) 292-3686.



Tall Stacks 2003



Steamboats from more than a dozen of America's premier Midwestern river cities take part in the event that also features acres of on-shore historical exhibits and musical entertainment celebrating the region's river culture and heritage.

The Newport Riverfront will offer evening hot-air balloon rides, historic vessels (J.S. Lewis, Osage, Barbara H., Derrick Boat, C.J. Bryan, and Coe Crane Barge), Civil War Encampment at Taylor Park, River Taxi, Mark Twain, food vendors and merchandise.

Other activities include: Riverboat cruises, tours and races; on-shore jazz, blues, gospel, Heartland Rock and bluegrass music; strolling musicians; period-costumed re-enactors; historical demonstrations and re-enactments; river exhibits; and Tom Sawyerville children's area.

Tall Stacks pins are needed to access various exhibits/areas. These pins are sold for \$12.00 per pin or \$10.00 at Krogers.

Volunteer Hotline (513) 621-8255. For additional information visit the web site at www.tallstacks.com.

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention Month:

October is "Fire Prevention Month."

Fire Prevention Activities at
Newport on the Levee

Newport Fire/EMS Department in recognition of Fire Prevention Week will have Sparky the Fire Dog available for photos, thermo imaging camera demonstrations, FREE fire helmets, badges, and other fire safety material available to the public.

Saturday, October 4th - 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 5th from 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fire Prevention Week:



"Fire Prevention Week" runs from October 5 - 11. In the U.S., a home fire is reported to a fire department about every 85 seconds and someone is killed in a home fire every three hours. Smoke alarms are the most effective early warning devices available. Having a smoke alarm in your home cuts your change of dying in a fire nearly in half. You should install at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home and in or near all sleeping areas. Every household should develop and practice a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place.



Street Improvement Update

The City is nearing completion on one of the most comprehensive street improvement programs in its history



If you have any questions or concerns about the quality of the work that was performed on

your street or concerns about your repaved or replaced sidewalk or curb, please contact Bruce Brandstetter at (513) 651-4224.

Once again we thank you for your patience and cooperation during construction on this most important improvement program.

Transportation/Parking Projects

Residential Parking

The City has been conducting a Pilot program for resident only parking in the lower east side to deter people going to the entertainment district from parking in residential areas. The Board of Commissioners made this program permanent on September 22, 2003.

The following streets have been designated Restricted Residential Zones and restricted during hours posted on the signs. If there are no hours or signs posted on a particular street there is no restricted residential parking.

STREETS: East Second Street, including Ahlering Alley, East Third Street, East Fourth Street, East Fifth Street, 300 Block of Monmouth Street, 100 thru 400 Block of Park, 300 thru 400 Block of Overton, 300 thru 400 Block of Washington, 300 thru 400 Block of Saratoga, Lexington Avenue, and Providence Way.

Painting on I-471 Bridge

During the next twelve months, the State will be repainting the I-471 Bridge. Most of the painting in 2003 will be under the bridge, not affecting traffic, however, as painting begins on the upper span, please prepare yourself for lane closures.

One Way Third Street

In an effort to keep non-residential traffic out of the lower east side, East Third Street from Overton Street to Washington Avenue has been designated one-way west. This change will take place on or about October 15th. Please watch for this change.

Monmouth Street

Work crews are finishing up the items to be corrected. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by the end of October. Also the State will be resurfacing Monmouth Street from Eleventh to Third Street in early October. Please be aware of these ongoing improvements as you travel down Monmouth Street.

10th Street and Park Avenue Bridge Replacement

Work has begun on the replacement of the railroad bridge that crosses 10th Street at Park Avenue. This work will be completed no later than June 1, 2004. There will be several months when 10th Street at Park will be closed to traffic. There will be detour signs to direct traffic around the area. The City will post updates on its website and on Cable Channel 16.

Trick or Treat - October 31, 2003

Trick or Treat! It's time for the children of Newport to dress up like their favorite monster, goblin or super hero. Although Trick or Treat is a fun time for children and parents alike, there are seven safety tips that the City would like everyone to remember:

- Parents should inspect all treats before children eat them.
- Mask holes should be large enough to see through easily.
- Use a flashlight to let drivers see you, and to see where you are going.
- To avoid tripping, don't wear costumes that are too loose or too long.
- Reflective bright colors should be used so drivers can

see you after dark.

- Walk on sidewalks, or as near to the curb as possible if there are no sidewalks.
- Observe safety rules when crossing or walking on streets, and stay clear of traffic.

Trick or Treat Night will be held on Friday, October 31 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The Police Department will have extra patrols during that time.

If you find any candy that looks suspicious, please notify the police department immediately. The City of Newport hopes that everyone has a safe and Happy Halloween.



East Row Historic Homes Tour

Authored by: *Mary Beth Crocker*

The East Row Historic Foundation will host the 2003 Historic Homes Tour during Tall Stacks 2003 Music, Arts and Heritage Festival on Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19, 2003, in Newport, Kentucky. The tour was recently named by the Greater Cincinnati Tall Stacks Commission, Inc., as the official homes tour for the festival.

The tour runs from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. each day in the East Row Historic District, the second largest local historic district in Kentucky.

Tall Stacks 2003, which is expected to feature one of the largest gathering of riverboats during this century, is America's largest celebration of steamboating in the late 1800's. In all, 17 boats will be docked along the Ohio River and will offer visitors the thrill of seeing what Newport and Cincinnati's riverfront was like during the heyday of steamboat era.

During the tour, 12 historic, renovated/rehabbed homes will be open to the public in the neighborhood, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The homes, selected by a neighborhood committee, reflect Victorian-era exterior architecture including Queen Anne, Italianate, Second Empire and Colonial Revival styles with such ornate details as artistic stained glass windows, pattern masonry and carved limestone ornamentation. Some home interiors are elegantly appointed with period antiques, gaslight fixtures and reproduction wallpapers and window treatments; some feature faux wall finishes, handpainted ceilings and stencil designs. Many of the homes have never been open to the public while others are visitor favorites from past neighborhood tours.

Among the highlights:

"Beverly Hills Barracks" - Italianate
 "Barney Kroger" House - Second Empire
 Schultz House—Greek Revival/Italianate
 Former First Presbyterian Church—Victorian Gothic
 Hamilton House - Queen Anne

In addition, there will be points of interest that will also reflect the history of the neighborhood: Southgate Street School, Beaux Arts Building, George Wiedemann Jr. Mansion and St. Mark's Lutheran Church

During the tour, some homeowners, greeters and roving ambassadors will be dressed in costumes that echo mid-to-late 19th century and correspond with the construction states of the homes. A free limousine service will make periodic stops through the entire tour route including stops at the ticket area, Newport on the Levee and the Kentucky riverfront.

Also, relaxation areas will be available during the tour to provide comfort for visitors.



Photo by: Robin Victor Goetz

The East Row Historic Homes Tour will begin at the George Wiedemann Jr. Mansion, 401 Park Avenue, where tickets will be sold at the door during tour hours. Tickets are \$20 per person. In addition, advance tickets will be sold through a 24-hour toll-free number, beginning May 15. The number: 1 (866) EAST ROW (1-866-327-8769). (Tickets are limited. Approximately 1,000 tickets will be available for Saturday and another 1,000 for Sunday.)

Although the East Row Historic District may be easily maneuvered by wheelchairs, the homes on the tour are not handicapped accessible. Organizers also suggest that visitors wear comfortable shoes; no spike heels will be allowed in the homes.

The East Row Historic District hosted a Tall Stacks homes tour in 1999. Like the 2003 Tour, it also was sanctioned by the Greater Cincinnati Tall Stacks Commission, Inc.

This year's East Row Historic Homes Tour during Tall Stacks 2003 will replace the East Row Victorian Christmas Tour, normally scheduled in December. The Christmas Tour will resume in 2004.

For more information about the East Row Historic District and the tour, visit www.eastrow.org. For more information about Tall Stacks 2003 go to www.tallstacks.com.

CitiFest 2003

The Homebuilders Association of Northern Kentucky presents CitiRama 2003 at Wiedemann Hill on October 18 - November 2, 2003. This is the second year for this fabulous home show that will feature six new homes at Wiedemann Hill. The houses are being built by Stellar Homes, Cutter Custom Homes, Tim Burks Builder, Inc. and Cull Homes.



Featuring elegantly appointed interiors and representing a variety of architectural styles, the builders have creatively incorporated the fabulous views of Newport and the Cincinnati skyline into the design of the homes.

For additional information please contact (859) 331-9500.

Fall Maintenance

Tree Trimming and Crack Sealing

The City of Newport is pleased to announce that beginning October 1, 2003, the Public Works Division will begin the Annual Tree Trimming & Street Crack Sealing Program.

A notice will be delivered to homes in affected areas at least two days in advance. Both sides of the street will receive the notice. This will create a minor inconvenience to residents by requiring both sides of the street to be cleared of vehicles.



This is necessary to allow for the crack sealing to be done in a continuous manner.

Leaf Pick-Up

From November 1 - November 21, 2003.

Residents may rake their leaves into the curb area for pick up. If residents have any questions, please call the Public Works Division at (859) 292-3674.



Park Improvements

Vets/Bartlett

Work continues on major improvements to Veterans Field and Bartlett Field. This fall, Bartlett Field will be expanded, additional lighting will be added to Vet's Fields and there will be extensive restoration of all fields including irrigation. Also, the City purchased Hilltop Inn to provide parking and future enhanced park opportunities. The newly renovated complex will be ready for play April 1, 2004.

Bernadette Watkins

The City will be moving forward with renovations to

Bernadette Watkins Park this fall. These improvements will include new basketball courts with lighting and a new shelter area.

Riverfront Park

The new stairs and ramp linking Newport on the Levee with Riverboat Row has been completed. Lighting for the stairs and ramp will be installed in October. After Tall Stacks, additional work will be done to widen the area around Riverboat Row in order to provide a user-friendly venue for festivals and other events on the Riverfront.

Newport Businesses Celebrate Milestones

Pompilio's Celebrates 70 Years

Stained Glass Theatre Celebrates 40 Years

Fantasy in Frosting Celebrates 25 Years

Prepare Affair

People Working Cooperatively

This year's annual Prepare Affair (PWC) is scheduled for Saturday, November 15, 2003. This is the Fall event designed to aid low income elderly homeowners in Newport in preparing their homes for Winter. In the past City Staff has assisted many residents by cleaning and mowing yards, hauling off debris, cleaning gutters, lowering storm windows.

To see if you qualify for assistance or if you would like to volunteer contact PWC at (513) 351-7921.



Fall Litterfest 2003

Litterfest will begin on Saturday, November 15, 2003 through Sunday, November 23, 2003.

Residents are encouraged to participate by cleaning up and disposing of trash and debris from their neighborhood or property. Dumpsters will remain available between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the City of Newport's Public Works facility located at 1020 East Ninth Street. During this event the City of Newport will make available to its residents, at no cost, the ability to dispose of household items, trash, and debris at the Public Works Facility.

Residents who require assistance with the disposal of larger items can contact the City of Newport at (859) 292-3637.

Mark Your Calendar!

September 26-November 1, 2003 BB Riverboat USS Nightmare
USS Nightmare 2003 will be haunting the Newport waterfront for a haunting season that promises to scare and thrill all. For more information call (859) 261-8500 or visit www.ussnightmare.com.

October 5-11, 2003 Fire Prevention Week
October 5th, is the day, according to legend, Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lantern causing the "Great Chicago Fire." Fire Prevention Week is celebrated each October.

October 1-31, 2003 Registration for Adult Leagues
Register a men's basketball or co-ed volleyball team for a winter adult athletic league. Each league will accept 8 teams and run 7 weeks, followed by a single elimination tournament. Trophies and tee-shirts will be awarded. Leagues begin the second week of January 2004. Registration fee is \$225 per team plus referee fees. Registration required by calling (859) 292-3686.

October 15-19, 2003 Tall Stacks
Dozens of the nation's riverboats converge on the banks of the Ohio River for this Music, Arts & Heritage Festival. Volunteer Hotline phone number is (513) 621-8255. For more information call (513) 721-0104.

October 18-19, 2003 East Row Historic Homes Tour During Tall Stacks
Tour was named by the Greater Cincinnati Tall Stacks Commission, Inc. as the official homes tour for the festival. Tours, featuring twelve historic, renovated/rehabbed homes, will be open to the public from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the East Row Historic District. The \$20 tickets may be purchased in advance by calling (866) 327-8769.

October 18-November 2, 2003 CitiFest
CitiFest features six new homes at Wiedemann Hill - the site of last year's show. For more information, please call (859) 331-9500.

October 26, 2003 Monsters on Monmouth Parade
Children of all ages dress in their favorite Halloween costume for the annual Monsters on Monmouth Parade down Monmouth Street. There will be festivities at Newport on the Levee immediately following the parade. For specific times call (859) 292-3686.

October 28, 2003 Hayride and Pumpkin Carving
The first 50 children to register, ages 6 - 10, from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. will begin the Halloween festivities by taking a hayride at Buena Vista Park and selecting a pumpkin of their choice. The children then carve the pumpkins with safe carving knives in A. D. Owens cafeteria. All pumpkins, decorating materials and supervision are provided by Newport Parks & Recreation. Registration required by calling (859) 292-3686.

October 29, 2003 Pumpkin and Halloween Walk
Enter a pumpkin in the annual Pumpkin Contest at James Taylor Park. All pumpkins will be on display along the Halloween Walking Trail for the entire family to enjoy. Snacks and beverages, along with other Halloween surprises will be provided. Pumpkin registration required by calling (859) 292-3686.

October 31, 2003 Trick or Treat
Trick or Treat! It's time for the children of Newport to dress up like their favorite monster, goblin or super hero. The Police Department will have extra patrols out from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

New Employees
Daron Arnberg - Police Officer
Adam Brown - Police Officer
Brandon Hatley - Police Officer
Jason Straus - Police Officer

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City of Newport
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